

Appl. No.: 10/682,183
Amdt. dated 04/26/2005
Reply to Office action of March 16, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 7-14, and 23-25 are now pending after entry of the above amendments. The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-18, 20, and 21 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,890,758 to Gailus.

Claims 1-7 and 9-22 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,499,595 to Petricca.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 8, 10-18, 20, and 21 were also rejected as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,069,355 to Matuszak in view of Gailus.

Applicants have amended the claims above. Claim 1 is drawn to a container wherein the flange has a circular peripheral edge that is radially offset by an offset distance (e.g., the difference between W_{\max} and W_{\min} in FIG. 3) relative to the edge of the container sidewall from which the flange projects. As a result, the width of the flange varies about the circumference, and hence the seal between the flange and the lid also varies in width such that the seal has a portion of reduced width relative to other portions of the seal. The cited references do not teach or suggest such a container.

New independent Claim 23 is drawn to a container wherein the flange is annular and of substantially constant width about its circumference. Sealant is applied to the flange in a generally annular pattern, the annular pattern having a first circular edge and a second edge generally parallel to but radially offset by an offset distance (e.g., see FIG. 5) relative to the first circular edge such that a width of the seal varies about a circumference of the flange by the offset distance, whereby the seal has a portion of reduced width relative to other portions of the seal. The cited references do not teach or suggest such a container.

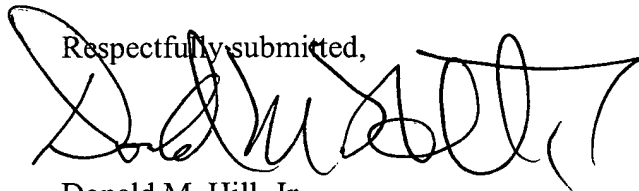
Accordingly, it is submitted that all pending claims are allowable.

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Conclusion

Based on the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any further issues to be resolved prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

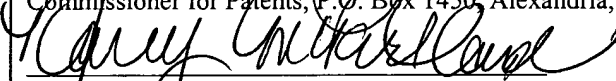


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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